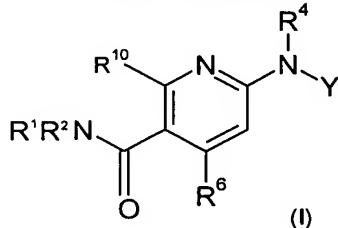


In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-6 and 8 as follows. Please add new claims 10-17.

1. (Currently Amended)

A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

Y is phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three substituents

selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, halosubstitutedC₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, a hydroxy group, a cyano group, halo, a C₁₋₆alkylsulfonyl group, -CONH₂, -NHCOCH₃, -COOH halosubstitutedC₁₋₆ alkoxy, SO₂NR^{8a}R^{8b} and C₁₋₆ alkynyl;

R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, or and halosubstitutedC₁₋₆ alkyl;

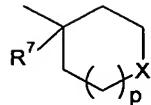
R² is (CH₂)_mR³ where m is 0 or 1;

or R¹ and R² together with N to which they are attached form an optionally substituted 4- to 8- membered non-aromatic heterocycl ring optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from: C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, a hydroxy group, a cyano group, halo, a sulfonyl group, methylsulfonyl, NR^{8a} R^{8b}, CH₂phenyl, NHCOCH₃, (=O), CONHCH₃ or NHSO₂CH₃;

R³ is a 4- to 8- membered non-aromatic heterocycl group, a C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl group, a straight or branched C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, a C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, a C₃₋₈cycloalkenyl, a C₂₋₁₀alkynyl, or a C₃₋₈cycloalkynyl any of which can be unsubstituted unsubstituted or substituted with C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, a hydroxy group, a cyano group, halo, a sulfonyl group, methylsulfonyl, NR^{8a} R^{8b}, CH₂phenyl, NHCOCH₃, (=O), CONHCH₃ or NHSO₂CH₃ or R³ can be or R⁵;

R⁴ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, or halosubstitutedC₁₋₆ alkyl, COCH₃, or and SO₂Me;

R⁵ is



wherein p is 0, 1 or 2, and X is CH₂, O, or S;

R⁶ is a substituted or unsubstituted (C₁₋₆)alkyl or chloro and R¹⁰ is hydrogen or R¹⁰ is a substituted or unsubstituted (C₁₋₆)alkyl or chloro and R⁶ is hydrogen wherein said substituted (C₁₋₆)alkyl group is substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyoxy, cyano, halo, NR^{8a}R^{8b}, CONR^{8a}R^{8b}, SO₂NR^{8a}R^{8b}, NR^{8a}COR^{8b} and NR^{8a}SO₂R^{8b};

R⁷ is OH, C₁₋₆alkoxy, NR^{8a}R^{8b}, NHCOR⁹, NSO₂R⁹ or SOqR⁹;

R^{8a} is H or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R^{8b} is H or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁹ is C₁₋₆alkyl;

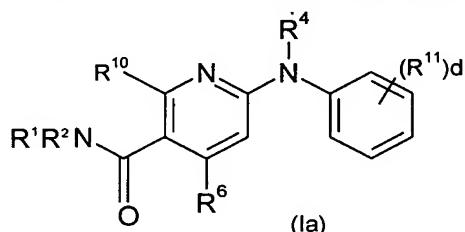
q is 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. (Currently Amended)

A compound ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ of formula

(Ia):



R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, or and halosubstituted C₁₋₆ alkyl;

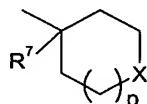
R² is (CH₂)_mR³ where m is 0 or 1;

or R¹ and R² together with N to which they are attached form a non-aromatic heterocyclyl ring selected from azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, tetrahydropyridinyl, azapine, oxapine, azacyclooctanyl, azaoxacyclooctanyl and azathiacyclooctanyl, any of which can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from; C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano, halo, sulfonyl, methylsulfonyl, NR^{8a}R^{8b}, CH₂phenyl, NHCOCH₃, (=O), CONHCH₃ and NSO₂CH₃;

R^3 is 2- or 3- azetidinyl, oxetanyl, thioxetanyl, thioxetanyl-s-oxide, thioxetanyl-s,s-dioxide, dioxalanyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl-s,s-dioxide, morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrothiopyranyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl-s,s-dioxide, tetrahydropyridinyl, dioxanyl, tetrahydro-thiopyran 1,1 dioxide, azapine, oxapine, azacyclooctanyl, azaoxacyclooctanyl, azathiacyclooctanyl, oxacylcoclooctanyl, thiacyclooctanyl, a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, a straight or branched C_{1-10} alkyl, a C_{2-10} alkenyl, a C_{3-8} cycloalkenyl, a C_{2-10} alkynyl, or a C_{3-8} cycloalkynyl or R^5 ; any of which can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano, halo, sulfonyl, methylsulfonyl, $NR^{8a}R^{8b}$, $CH_2phenyl$, $NHCOCH_3$, ($=O$), $CONHCH_3$ and $NHSO_2CH_3$;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or halosubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl, $COCH_3$, or and SO_2Me ;

R^5 is



wherein p is 0, 1 or 2, and X is CH_2 , O or S ;

R^6 is a substituted or unsubstituted (C_{1-6})alkyl or chloro and R^{10} is hydrogen or R^{10} is a substituted or unsubstituted (C_{1-6})alkyl or chloro and R^6 is hydrogen wherein said substituted (C_{1-6})alkyl group is substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyoxy, cyano, halo, $NR^{8a}R^{8b}$, $CONR^{8a}R^{8b}$, $SO_2NR^{8a}R^{8b}$, $NR^{8a}COR^{8b}$ and $NR^{8a}SO_2R^{8b}$,

R^7 is OH, C_{1-6} alkoxy, $NR^{8a}R^{8b}$, $NHCOR^9$, $NHSO_2R^9$ or $SOqR^9$;

R^{8a} is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{8b} is H or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^9 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^{11} is C_{1-6} alkyl, halosubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano, halo, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, - $CONH_2$, - $NHCOCH_3$, - $COOH$, halosubstituted C_{1-6} alkoxy $SO_2NR^{8a}R^{8b}$ or C_{1-6} alkynyl;

q is 0, 1 or 2;

d is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein R¹ is hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein R⁴ is C₁₋₆ alkyl or hydrogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein R⁶ is *t*-butyl, isopropyl or CF₃.

6. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed any preceding in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

7. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a human or animal subject mammal suffering from a condition which is mediated by the activity of cannabinoid 2 receptors which comprises administering to said mammal subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. (Original) A method of treatment as claimed in claim 8 wherein the condition is an immune disorder, an inflammatory disorder, pain, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, osteoarthritis or osteoporosis.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pain is selected from inflammatory pain, viseral pain, cancer pain, neuropathic pain, lower back pain, muscular skeletal, post operative pain, acute pain and migraine.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said mammal is a human.
12. (New) A compound selected from
6-(3-Chloro-phenyl-amino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(3-Bromo-phenyl-amino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(2,4-Dichloro-phenylamino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
4-Isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-6-(3-trifluoromethoxy-phenylamino)-nicotinamide;
4-*tert*-Butyl-6-(2,4-di-chloro-phenylamino)-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(3-Chloro-4-cyano-phenylamino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(2-Fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(4-Bromo-2-chloro-phenylamino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(3,4-Dichloro-phenylamino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(2-Bromo-4-trifluoromethoxy-phenylamino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(3,5-Difluoro-phenylamino)-4-isopropyl-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-nicotinamide;
6-(2,4-Dichloro-phenylamino)-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-nicotinamide;
and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.
13. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 12.

14. (New) A method of treating a mammal suffering from a condition which is mediated by the activity of cannabinoid 2 receptors which comprises administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 12.
15. (New) A method of treatment as claimed in claim 14 wherein the condition is an immune disorder, an inflammatory disorder, pain, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, osteoarthritis or osteoporosis.
16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said pain is selected from inflammatory pain, viseral pain, cancer pain, neuropathic pain, lower back pain, muscular skeletal, post operative pain, acute pain and migraine.
17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said mammal is a human.